

1-1 By: Hinojosa S.C.R. No. 79
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed May 14, 2007; May 14, 2007, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and
1-4 Military Installations; May 18, 2007, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 18, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislative Medal of Honor was established
1-8 to honor gallant and intrepid service by a member of the state
1-9 military forces of Texas, and through his courageous actions in
1-10 Vietnam, Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez distinguished himself
1-11 as a worthy recipient of this prestigious honor; and

1-12 WHEREAS, Born May 23, 1946, in Edinburg and a graduate of
1-13 Edinburg High School, Sergeant Gonzalez enlisted in the United
1-14 States Marine Corps in May 1965; after his first tour of duty in
1-15 Vietnam, he was chosen to train new marines for guerilla warfare;
1-16 and

1-17 WHEREAS, A few months later, Sergeant Gonzalez learned of an
1-18 ambush in which men who had served under him had been killed;
1-19 impelled by a strong sense of duty to his fellow marines and to his
1-20 country, he volunteered for a second tour in Vietnam; and

1-21 WHEREAS, When, at the end of January 1968, North Vietnamese
1-22 and Viet Cong troops launched the massive Tet Offensive, Sergeant
1-23 Gonzalez and his platoon were ordered to Hue to relieve the pressure
1-24 on that city; en route to Hue, the platoon's convoy was hit by heavy
1-25 fire on several occasions; during one such encounter, Sergeant
1-26 Gonzalez saw an injured marine lying in the road ahead and ran
1-27 through enemy fire to carry the man to cover, receiving
1-28 fragmentation wounds in the rescue; and

1-29 WHEREAS, With the column halted by withering fire from a
1-30 fortified machine-gun bunker, Sergeant Gonzalez proceeded to guide
1-31 his men to a protective dike; he then moved out onto a road being
1-32 raked by the gun and destroyed the bunker with hand grenades; later,
1-33 on February 3, Sergeant Gonzalez was seriously wounded but
1-34 continued to refuse medical treatment and to lead his men in their
1-35 attack; and

1-36 WHEREAS, During fighting in Hue on February 4, his platoon of
1-37 some 35 troops was again pinned down by a ferocious barrage; telling
1-38 his unit to stay behind shelter, Sergeant Gonzalez moved forward
1-39 aggressively with hand grenades and small antitank rockets, firing
1-40 numerous rounds against enemy emplacements; and

1-41 WHEREAS, Entering a church, where the North Vietnamese were
1-42 heavily fortified, he succeeded in suppressing virtually all of
1-43 their fire; before the last of it could be silenced, however, he was
1-44 mortally wounded; and

1-45 WHEREAS, Because he succeeded in destroying so many North
1-46 Vietnamese positions, Sergeant Gonzalez was credited with saving
1-47 the lives of the men in his platoon; the following year, in
1-48 consequence of his extraordinary and selfless action, he was
1-49 posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, becoming the only marine
1-50 in combat during the Tet Offensive to receive that award; and

1-51 WHEREAS, For those with whom he served, the heroism displayed
1-52 by Sergeant Gonzalez was completely in character; "it seemed like
1-53 he was everywhere all the time," one remembered; "he was always
1-54 there in the front, never in the back . . . he was always there for
1-55 us"; and

1-56 WHEREAS, Among the awards subsequently conferred on Sergeant
1-57 Gonzalez were three Purple Hearts, four Presidential Unit
1-58 Citations, and a Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National
1-59 Defense Medal, and Cold War Certificate; in addition, he was the
1-60 posthumous recipient of two South Vietnamese decorations--the
1-61 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with gold palm and star and the Vietnam
1-62 Service Medal with four bronze stars; in 1996, the United States
1-63 Navy commissioned a new guided missile-destroyer in his honor; and

1-64 WHEREAS, Through his unhesitating selflessness and his

2-1 unfaltering devotion to duty, honor, and his country, Sergeant
2-2 Alfredo Gonzalez embodied the highest ideals of the armed service,
2-3 and he most assuredly merits the award of this state's supreme
2-4 military medal; now, therefore, be it

2-5 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-6 hereby posthumously confer the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor on
2-7 Sergeant Alfredo "Freddy" Gonzalez in recognition of his heroic
2-8 service and express to his family its deepest appreciation on
2-9 behalf of all his fellow Texans; and, be it further

2-10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2-11 prepared for the family of Sergeant Gonzalez as an expression of
2-12 highest regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.

2-13

* * * * *